

The Congressional Issue Monitor

Congressman Jim Nussle

Manchester, Iowa

Summer 2001

Jim Nussle's Agenda for Iowa...

- ***Strengthening
the Family Farm***
- ***Eliminate Debt,
Lower Taxes &
Responsible Budgets***
- ***Long-term
Energy Strategy
Promoting
Renewable Sources
& Conservation***
- ***Retirement
Security for All
Iowans***
- ***Modernize
Medicare with
Prescription
Drugs***
- ***Leave No Child
Behind By
Reforming
Education with
Local Control***
- ***Keep Our
Nation's Promise to
Our Veterans***
- ***Fair Trade
for Better Jobs
and Wages***

Modernize Medicare with Prescriptions Drugs

"Medicare is one of the most important benefits that Iowa seniors rely upon. Unfortunately, Medicare is not meeting the needs of seniors if it isn't modernized to meet the increasing reliance on prescription drugs for disease control and prevention. Medicare must include a prescription drug benefit and must be modernized to ensure that good quality health care continues to be available in the rural and under-served areas of Iowa."

Jim Nussle

AGENDA GOALS:

- 1. Modernize Medicare**
- 2. Provide Prescription Drug Coverage**
- 3. Provide Fair Rural and Under-served area Medicare Reimbursements**
- 4. Attract Providers and Professionals to Rural and Under-served Areas**
- 5. Utilize Prevention**

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www.nussle.house.gov

nussleia@mail.house.gov

Modernizing Medicare Agenda Legislation:

Budget

H. CON RES 83, FY 2002 Budget Resolution

- Includes \$300 billion over 10 years for Medicare modernization with a prescription drug benefit; funding for a new refundable tax credit to help low income people obtain health insurance; \$2.8 billion increase for NIH; and \$124 million to increase community health center funding.

H.R. 2, Social Security and Medicare Lock Box

Rural Health Care Coalition

- Past Chairman, Steering Committee; Co-chair of the RHCC working group on Beneficiary Issues/Access to Health Insurance.

Access to Care

Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Breast Cancer Program

- Signed letter to Chairman Lewis in support of \$175 million for the DOD program.

H.R. 1723, Breast Cancer and Environment Research Act of 2001

- Authorizes \$30 million a year (over 5) grant program to study correlation between breast cancer and the environment.

H.R. 831, Long-Term Care and Retirement Security Act of 2001

- Provides a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums.

H.R. 1202, Providing Annual Pap Tests to Save Women's Lives Act of 200

- Amends BIPA to extend pap & pelvic exam annual coverage to all Medicare women beneficiaries.

Health Care Provider Assistance

H.R. 2157, Addressing Rural Health Care Disparities Act of 2001

- RHCC bill; various provisions to help rural hospitals, home health providers and clinics.

H.R. 1510, Medicare and Medicaid Nursing Services Quality Improvement Act of 2001

- Authorizes demo to remove certain federal feeding and nursing requirements for resident assistants of nursing homes.

H.R. 868, Medicare Education and Regulatory Fairness Act of 2001 (MERFA)

- Aides providers in understanding regulatory responsibilities under Medicare.

H.R. 1975, HIPAA Administration Simplification Regulations Extension

- Extends from October 16, 2002 to October 2004, the deadline for all health providers and professionals to comply with the uniformed codes required under HIPAA.

H.R. 2200, Health and Higher Education Facilities Improvement Act of 2001

- Bank deductibility bill to provide non-profits with more options to finance bond debt.

Health Care Access Improvement Act

- Provides a tax credit to primary health providers who establish practices in health professional shortage areas.

Medicare Cost-Contracts Bill

- Repeals the BBRA sunset of Medicare cost-contracts.

Nussle/Tanner Rural Letter

- Letter to W&M and Commerce, demanding provisions be included in Medicare modernization to address rural-urban disparities.